

REAL FIGHT IF THESE TWO MEET

Battling Nelson and Jimmy Britt Can Be Depended Upon for Great Scrap.

(By ROBERT EDGREN.)

There will be a great fight when Jimmy Britt and Battling Nelson come together in Los Angeles. These two always fight. No hippodroming when they meet.

Britt and Nelson form a curious contrast in the ring. Nelson is rough, shaggy, uncouth, rushing continuously with head lowered, butting, elbowing, rubbing his "wire hair" (specially stiffened by being washed in alkali water) in the other fellow's eyes and against his chest. Nelson is so illiterate that he talks like the toughest tramp. He was brought up among farmers and laborers. There are just two things to gain favor for Nelson—he always fights to win and he always keeps on fighting as long as he can stand on his feet.

Britt is exactly opposite in many things. He is well educated for a fighter, having graduated from a high school and continued his studies privately for years afterward. He is almost a dandy in his dress. He is smooth and polished in manner and in conversation, and he always has his hair brushed with extreme care. There's nothing shaggy about Britt. He was born and brought up in luxury, and took up fighting because he liked it.

Contrast in Ring.

In the ring he is just as much a contrast to Nelson. Where the latter is all for once long continued, persistent, unreasoning attack, Britt is a careful, diplomatic student. He is just as aggressive as Nelson when it comes to a mix-up. Britt is Irish, and he has all of the fighting qualities of his race. He is a very fast boxer, clean and clever, always fighting. But for his last fight with Gans, in which he refused to continue after the fifth round, claiming a broken arm, I would not have hesitated to say that he was fully as game as the Dane. Britt has shown remarkable gameness in several fights, notably the one in which he was knocked out by Nelson in the eighteenth round. I asked Gans about the finish of his last fight. Gans said: "Britt did what his seconds told him to do. He dazed he didn't know he was in a fix. I laid myself out to give him the worst beating I knew how to give. He was so near out I could have finished him with a punch if he had got up."

Beaten to a Pulp.

However, that may be, Britt didn't stage a comeback to be knocked out, and the "beaten to a pulp" became famous. Probably the two fights were generally understood to have been a draw. Nelson doesn't lose his nerve in a moment.

I figure it out this way. Jimmy came back to his corner beaten to a pulp. It was evident that he would be knocked out in the next round. He could not hold his guard because his right arm was injured. He was open for Gans' blows. Brother Willis, working on Jimmy in his corner, was doing some rapid calculation stunts in his mind, trying to figure out a way to keep that K. O. off the record books and save a shred of Jimmy's fighting reputation. "Jimmy, your arm's broken. You can't go on," he said. And Jimmy, dazed and sick and half-delirious from the beating, accepted his manager's judgment.

Grudge Between Them.

Britt and Nelson always fight because there is an old grudge between them. They couldn't meet in a fight and an exhibition. Nelson hates Britt because he brushes his hair so neatly. He is secretly jealous of Jimmy's many accomplishments, although Nelson would indignantly deny this. He probably hasn't reasoned it out himself. He hates Britt for his smooth air of superiority when they meet outside of the ring. He thinks Britt is a "dude," and Nelson hates a dude on general principles. He would like to be a dude himself, and he can't. The rough, shaggy Nelson sticks out plainly through any disguise of clothes.

Have Fought Three Times.

Nelson hates Nelson because Bat came up without any of Britt's advantages in breeding, education, boxing cleverness and all that, and noted James out of the lightweight championship. Britt despises Nelson. He always feels confident of his own superiority, when they meet. Nelson hates Britt and thinks "I can lick him, any day."

Three Times They Have Fought.

The first battle was fought on the referee's decision after a tight and dangerous mix-up until Nelson knocked Britt out in the eighth round. The third was fought on the 31st of last July, and Britt won this time decisively.

Bat in Bad Shape.

At the end of the twentieth round, Battling Nelson, more terribly battered than he was after the forty-two rounds with Gans, was hanging on the ropes, half-conscious, holding himself up with the last shred of that grim bulldog tenacity for which he is famous. Harry Pollack, who sat at the ringside, says Nelson could not have lasted ten seconds longer. As it was, he stuck long enough to lose on the referee's decision instead of by the K. O. route.

Anything, the Conditions of this Next Fight Will Favor Britt.

It is only a ten-round affair. Nelson, with his speed, can make the Britt, with his speed, can make a showing in a short scrap as well as in a long one. A knockout by either man is unlikely and unless there is a knockout the Nelson-Britt quarrel will be continued later, no doubt for a contest, where a decision can be rendered and the scrap can go to a finish.

COBB WANTS JOB.

Applies for Position of Coach at U. of Georgia.

Detroit, Mich., Feb. 23.—Private information was received here today at Athens, Ga., that Ty Cobb has been offered the position of coach of the baseball team at the University of Georgia.

Cobb has given the management its touch of anxiety, as it looks as if he were more determined in his mind than he has been given credit for.

NARROW ESCAPES OF CHAMPIONS

Lucky Punches That Caused Trouble for Holders of Pugilistic Titles.

Many and narrow have been the escapes of champion pugilists from knock-outs at the hands of despised opponents, and many times has a champion been fairly knocked out, but escaped the consequences through the partiality of the referee, who did not have the heart to see the title holder put away by a man not in the same class. It is a fact that many pugilists seek an opportunity to take advantage of the champion, thereby hoping to gain reputation and riches at small effort and little danger.

No boxer ever had a more painful experience in that respect than Robert Fitzsimmons, who in his day was the greatest man in the world for his weight. In 1894, three years after Fitz had won the middleweight championship from Jack Dempsey, and at a time when he was earnestly endeavoring to get on a bout with Jim Corbett for the heavyweight honors, Fitz made a six-round match with Joe Choynski, to be decided in a Boston theatre.

Fitzsimmons was engaged to be married to Rose Julian, sister of Martin Julian, and the freckled furoy had little thought of going in a real battle. But Choynski had an idea which he kept to himself, and that was that there would be a fine chance to introduce the celebrated double cross into the proceedings.

Love Taps for Two Rounds.

For two rounds they exchanged love taps, and the few spectators began to yawn. In the third round Fitz was counting up the house in order to see how much money there would be to ward his wedding expenses. Choynski saw the opportunity, and sent a smashing left to the jaw that tumbled Fitz down on his face and set the small crowd yelling like a tribe of Comanches.

Fitz rolled over on the floor, his freckles mingling with the resin dust, and Choynski stood watching him with a critical smile. Finally Ruby Robert got up on his hands and knees and shook his head to clear it. Just as the referee counted nine Fitz tottered to his feet. Choynski rushed forward to hold him, but he could strike, and held him like grim death. All about the stage they wrisled, Choynski making a desperate effort to free himself and Fitz hanging to his man like a grizzly bear.

When Fitz had steadied himself he broke away and sparred at long range to the end of the round. With one minute of sponging and towel swinging, Fitz was quite fresh when he came up for the fourth round.

Maher Had Fitz Dazed.

Fitzsimmons had another narrow escape, this time at the hands of Peter Maher. They met in a bout at New Orleans in 1892, and Maher reached Fitz's jaw with one of his famous left-handers, in the second round. Down to the canvas went Fitz, with his nose in the dust, but on his knee. He was apparently unable to get his head off the floor, although his legs were not seriously affected.

The Cornishman was scraping his nose in the dust until he was close to the count of ten, when he managed to get on his feet. After that he was more careful and gradually worked Maher down to a point where the Irish champion became discouraged and refused to come out of his corner for the thirteenth round.

George Dixon had an unpleasant experience in the City of Brotherly Love in 1892, when he was completely knocked out by the Kentucky Rosebud, a negro who had shown some hitting ability, but scant courage. The circumstances under which Dixon was defeated were such that the Rosebud got little credit for it, and as he later "faked" out of a match with "Little Champ" in which Dixon had planned to get even with the Rosebud, the knockout was regarded as a contemptible double-cross and went down in the records as a draw battle.

LAST YEAR FOR MILLER

Famous Jockey Thinks He Has Won Enough Money to Deserve Rest for Awhile.

Walter Miller, America's best jockey, says that this will be his last year in the saddle, as far as the tracks in this country are concerned. "I feel that I will have earned a little rest and enjoyment after this season," said Miller the other day, "and as I am growing older it naturally becomes more difficult to maintain my contract weight. This I can only do by depriving myself of even ordinary luxuries. I feel that I have done my share in the racing game. I can do 108 pounds now, but sometimes it is with the greatest difficulty. By next year, if I continue to grow as I have been doing lately, it will be impossible for me to make this weight. I do not expect to be a rider all my life. I have been hard at work for the last five years and have made a success, so that I would much prefer to retire before my usefulness has gone. In this way I will leave the saddle carrying with me the respect and good will of the racing public. It is just possible that I may do a little riding in Europe later on, but that will not be for long."

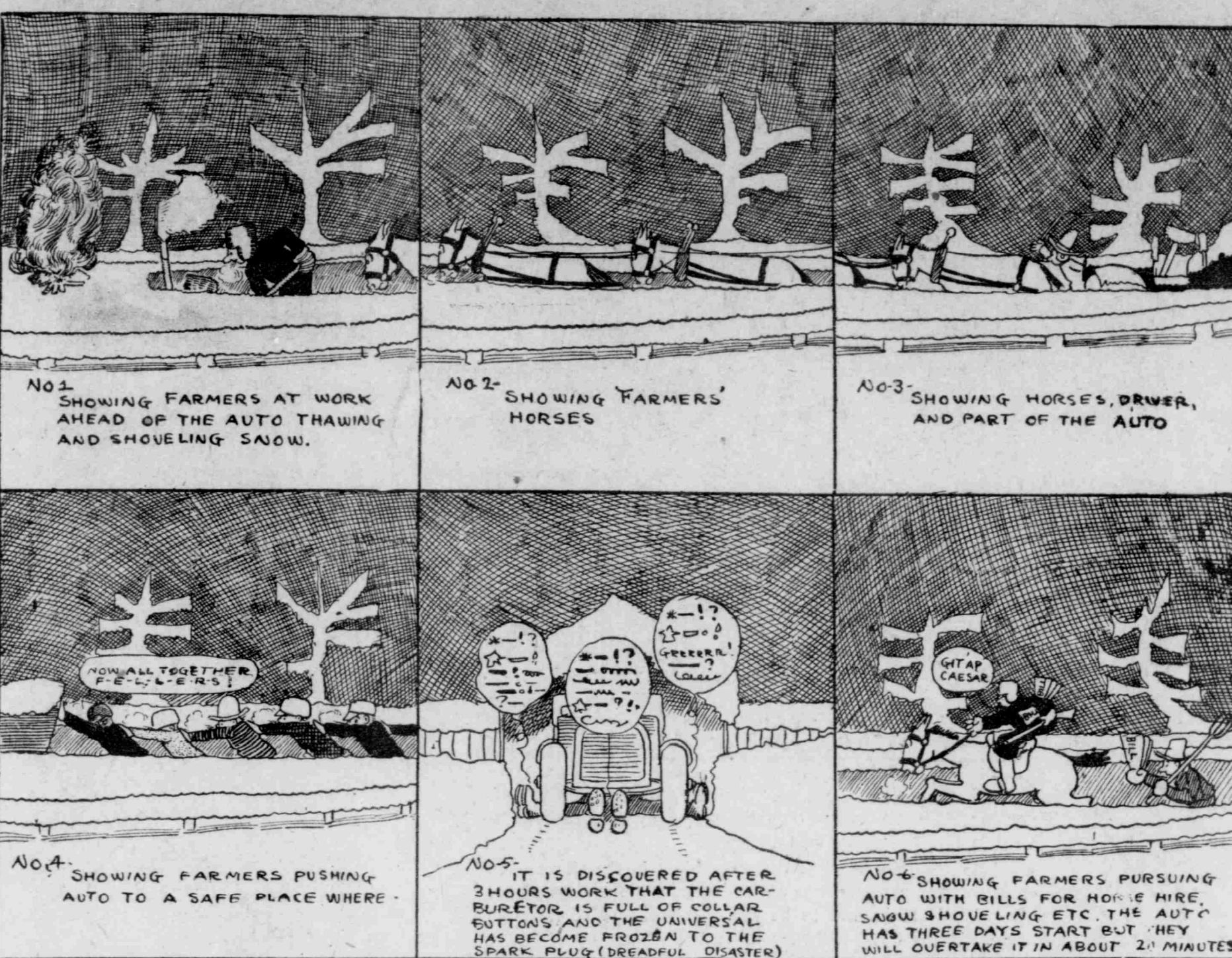
Miller has made \$200,000 since he first became famous as a jockey several years ago, and has laid away a good portion of this amount.

PENN PICKED TO WIN.

Have Strongest Line-up for Track and Field Meet.

Tale and Cornell already look to be out of the running for the intercollegiate championship next spring. The Ithacans have lost heavily through athletes falling back in their studies, while John Mack is up against a game at New Haven, Pennsy should win big games this year, with Cartmell, Haskins and Taylor backed up by the new one Murphy hopes to whip into championship form.

AUTOMOBILE ANNIHILATING SPACE IN NEW YORK-PARIS RACE



S-P-O-R-T-O-L-O-G-Y

BY W. D. RISHEL.

That New York-Paris automobile race has resolved itself into one huge joke. When it was first planned the automobilists of the country looked for a race which would be the talk of the world while it was going on and which would demonstrate that the auto as a means of travel was equal to any task that might be demanded of it. Instead of doing what was expected, the first of the six cars reached Chicago in thirteen days after it left New York. This is not much better time than Edward Weston, the seventy-year-old pedestrian, did over practically the same roads three months ago. Twelve years ago bicycles covered the distance from San Francisco to New York in less time than the leader of the automobiles did from New York to Chicago. The racers used horses and in some places used a locomotive to help them along. On top of this, it is announced that the contest the Boer called on Bat at the Pacific coast and finish the rest of the race in a Pullman car. Could any person imagine a bigger farce than this event?

Where Bat Got Rudie.

Rudolph Unholz and Battling Nelson are the closest kind of friends. Before their recent fight they were like brothers, and also were the day after the contest. Unholz always boasts of his friendship for Nelson and the manner in which Bat loves him, but an incident happened the day after their Los Angeles meeting that had the Boer guessing. It will be remembered that some of the Los Angeles papers gave Bat the best of their fight, while some said the Boer won. On the day after the contest the Boer called on Bat at his room in the hotel and was greeted with a "Hello, Rudie, how are you feeling?" Unholz took a chair and asked Bat what he was doing. Nelson threw over a bundle of wrappers and asked Unholz to get busy and wrap up a lot of papers Bat said he was sending to his friends. Unholz willingly did as he was told, and when they were finished asked Nelson what was in the papers. Nelson replied: "Oh, I am sending you the United States Statute, and even to your friends in Africa. That is the paper which tells how bad I licked you last night."

Mistakes Made by Promoters.

The race as planned would have been one of the big sporting events of the year, and one of the greatest of possible boosts for the automobile if the promoters had used the smallest fraction of judgment. The route should have been through the southern part of the United States, where it would have been possible to travel at this time of the year. Then a route should have been named only after it had been gone over and selected by persons competent to judge roads. The machines should have been tested at in years to come. The autos should go the entire distance by land with the exception of the small neck of water from Alaska to Asia. The race should have been so scheduled that this part of the continent could have been reached in the summer months. If this plan had been carried out, it would have been a race worthy of the name and an achievement that would have been wondered at in years to come. The writer believes such a race can be pulled off and with success, and it would be a great boost for automobiles.

Outlook for Horse Racing.

While there has been more or less talk about horse racing around Salt Lake this spring, the first real move toward that end was taken the past week, and in all probability the game will be prosperous the coming season. It will be hard to make up any game amount of interest in the sport in Salt Lake, also Ogden, but in the smaller towns it is something new and will take well. Salt Lake has had such indifference to racing in the past several years that it will be an uphill job to interest the public in the sport. The game has been mismanaged and run down until now when one speaks of horse racing some one is ready to take a fling at the sport as it has been conducted in the past. These conditions also exist in Ogden. There is no reason why as good racing as the state has ever had should not be given this year and in all probability there will be. In the past couple of years there have been many fast horses imported into Utah, and as the game has been quiet, little attention has been paid to them. The promoters will in all probability succeed in getting these horses entered throughout the state, and fast racing and trotting miles are bound to result. The scheme of a state circuit is a good one, and one that should have been in practice for the past several years. This circuit should help to boost the sport in Salt Lake, where it is in the greatest need of a boost.

High-class Trap Shooting.

Salt Lake defeated Ogden in their intercity trap shoot, and the members of the local club were about as happy as the Junction City shooters were downcast over the outcome. For the past three or four years there has been the strongest kind of rivalry between these two towns in the trap game and, while the competition was keen, it was also so fierce that it is doubtful if there is another city in the country of the same size which could get in and defeat a team of ten men from either place. While Salt Lake won the third and deciding shoot, the percentage of victory in the three shoots was so small that it shows Ogden was a worthy opponent. In the three shoots Salt Lake broke 1,289 and Ogden broke 1,285. It will be seen that Salt Lake was just four targets ahead in this number, which gives some idea of the closeness of the shooting. The ten men for the Salt Lake team averaged 88.9 per cent in the three shoots, and the Ogden team averaged 88.6 per cent. It would be hard to find a tournament in the United States where twenty men shooting at the same number of birds will finish with this kind of a record.

BIG DERBY FOR MEXICO PLANNED

President Diaz Favors a Regular Meeting for City of Montezuma.

New York, Feb. 23.—F. M. Shortell, a former attaché of the Fazio-Tipton company in this city, but now a merchant in Mexico, says the movement to promote first-class racing in the republic to the south of the Rio Grande is sure to produce results that will be of benefit to breeders in the United States. The Mexicans want horses badly, and they prefer the thoroughbred strain to all others. The project has the warm support of the government, that is to say, of Don Porfirio Diaz.

President Diaz Favors a Regular Meeting for City of Montezuma.

President Diaz has long sought to establish in Mexico a fine breed of horses, and being a long-headed man, he appreciates the fact that the best way to get what he wants is to encourage racing. There is no organized racing in Mexico as in the United States. One or two days' meetings are held at the City of Mexico at various times during the winter months under the direction of various social societies.

JOHN M'GRAW'S RESOLVE.

Last fall when the ponies were running at Pimlico a lot of ball players used to show up every race day. One of the most inveterate race track habitués is John McGraw, the scrappy manager of the New York National team. Last fall things at the Pimlico track ran badly for the better, although the bookmakers had no reason to complain, and in consequence the men who made the wagers were a pretty group-looking lot the whole of this rather disastrous meet.

WAGNER MAY QUIT.

Famous Pittsburgh Player Wants Chicken Farm.

Pittsburg, Pa., Feb. 23.—Hans Wagner, the mighty shortstop of the Pirates, and champion batsman of the National League, has thrown consternation into the hearts of the fans, as well as President Dreyfus, by reiterating his midwinter threat that he will not play the coming season. Wagner declares he is negotiating for the purchase of a chicken farm and that he will devote his time to raising chickens.

GOATCH'S OFFER TO DUB ROGERS

New York, Feb. 23.—Frank Gotch, champion heavyweight wrestler of America, has jumped at the chance offered him for a match with Joe Rogers, the American who was defeated by Hackenschmidt in London a couple of weeks ago. Rogers yesterday announced his willingness to meet Gotch, and at the same time said he knew he could whip the Iowa man.

ELWERT MAY JOIN OUTLAWS

Well-known Ball Player Doesn't Like Terms Offered.

Pueblo, Colo., Feb. 23.—Bill Elwert, the Pueblo Indians' third baseman last season, and who was sold to the Toledo club of the American association, has received a big offer from the Sacramento (Cal.) outlaw team, and probably will accept. Elwert refused to sign Armour's contract and the new offer is \$600 better.

AFTER RUSSIAN GOLD.

American Horsemen to Send Five Racers Abroad.

Chicago, Feb. 23.—At a meeting of horsemen from various sections of the United States, held at the Annex last night, a committee was selected to have the United States represented at the international trotting race, to be held in St. Petersburg this fall for a purse of \$54,000, offered by the Russian government. The committee named at the meeting to select the five horses, trainers, jockeys and equipment to be sent to Russia, consists of W. E. D. Stokes and Russell Allen of New York, H. K. Devereaux of Cleveland, and Frank Gorton of Chicago. A fifth member, a committee was selected to have the United States represented at the international trotting race, to be held in St. Petersburg this fall for a purse of \$54,000, offered by the Russian government. The committee named at the meeting to select the five horses, trainers, jockeys and equipment to be sent to Russia, consists of W. E. D. Stokes and Russell Allen of New York, H. K. Devereaux of Cleveland, and Frank Gorton of Chicago. 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